(d) as on date, how much funds have been spent on the whole project ; and

(e) by when the whole line would be converted into broad gauge ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHRIEF) : (a) 268 kms.

(b) Madurai-Virudhunagar is already BG. Conversion of Virudhunagar-Quilon is not yet a sanctioned work.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Engine Shed at Katihar

4804. SHRI NARESH YADAV :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 109 acres of land has been acquired for an Engine Shed at Katihar; and

(b) if so, by when the Engine Shed would become functional with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of Katihar Jogbani Railway Line

4805. SHRI NARESH YADAV :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Jogbani Railway line is a MG line;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Jogbani is the Railway Station for Birat Nagar (Nepal) as such it has international importance;

(c) if so, whether Government are goir to convert this route from MG line to BG line on a priority basis; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is also a terminal station on Katihar-Jogbani MG section in Indian territory.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Privatisation of ancillary services in Railways

4806. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to privatise a number of ancillary services in various railway stations;

(b) if so, the details of these services and the time by when these are likely to be privatised;

(c) the estimate of savings as a result of privatisation;

(d) the criteria to be adopted to select private enterprise in this regard; and

(e) the number of workers likely to be affected and the mode of use of services of those likely to be rendered surplus as a result of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme of beautification-cum-maintenance of Bandra Station in lieu of sole advertisement rights at specified sites by an advertiser has been started. This has been extended to a few more stations over Indian Railways.

(c) The scheme has been introduced recently. No assessment of saving in expenditure as a result of privatisation has yet been made.

(d) Contract at Bandra Station was finalised on single tender basis on experimental basis. At other stations the same is finalised by calling the tenders.

(e) No staff will be rendered surplus on account of introduction of the above scheme.